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Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
/070 W
----------081210Z 070991 /22
O 081145Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5732
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1693

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: CABINDIAN REFUGEES IN TSHELA

REF: A. STATE 49146 B. STATE 49725

1. IN MEETING THIS MORNING WITH SADRUDDIN, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO GENEVA FROM AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN CAIRO, I PRESENTED POINTS COMMUNICATED REFTELS, AND SANITIZED VERSION OF KENNEDY REPORT.

2. SADRUDDING PREFACED RESPONSE WITH SLIGHT APOLIGIA TO EFFECT THAT HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF OBLIGED TO SUPPORT HIS FIELD REPRESENTATIVES TO MAXIMUM DEGREE POSSIBLE, BUT HTAT ON OCCASION, DESPITE BEST INTENTIONS AND EFFORTS, SOME SITUATIONS ESCAPED THEIR NOTICE. CONDITIONS IN ZAIRE, AND ESPECIALLY IN REGION FACING CABINDA WERE DELICATE AND COMPLEX, AND SUSCEPTIBLE OF DRAMATIC CHANGE FROM LOCATION TO LOCATION. THUS WHILE IN ONE COMMUNITY THERE MIGHT BE GREAT PRIVATION AND SUFFERING, IN ANOTHER NEARBY, CONDITIONS MIGHT BE QUITE SATISFACTORY. THIS WAS THE CASE IN SOUTHERN SUDAN A FEW YEARS, AGO WHEN UNHCR AFTER INTENSIVE
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INVESTIGATION FOUND A DESPERATE SITUATION AMONG THE REFUGEES, OF WHICH EVEN SUDANESE HOST GOVERNMENT WAS UNAWARE. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES HE HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME TO DESPATCH HIS OWN HEADQUARTERS OFFICIALS TO LOOK INTO CONDITIONS ON THE SCENE AND ADVISE HIM PERSONALLY.

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3. HAVING SAID THIS, SADRUDDIN STATED THAT HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF OUR CONCERN OVER THE REFUGEES FROM CABINDA AND, ACCORDINGLY, EVEN BEFORE THIS MEETING HAD INSTRUCTED DEPUTY HICOM MACE (WHO WAS PRESENT AT SESSION, TOGETHER WITH HA COUNSELOR) TO SEND ASSISTANCE DIVISION DIRECTOR GILBERT JEAGER, WHO IS THIRD IN UNHCR HIERARCHY, TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION AND REPORT BACK TO HIM AS REPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. JAEGER WILL THEREFORE TRAVEL TO KINSHASA THIS WEEKEND, MARCH 12 OR 13, PROCEDD TO THE TSHELA AREA FOR A PERSONAL EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS AMONG REFUGEES THERE, AND RETURN TO GENEVA WITH HIS REPORT, HOPE-FULLY TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. IF A NEED FOR ACTIVE UNHCR ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA IS PERCEIVED, SADRUDDIN SAID, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN PROMPTLY, HE STATED THAT JAEGER WOULD BE IN CAONTACT WITH OUR EMBASSY IN KINSHASA ON THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS VISIT.

4. COMMENT: SADRUDDIN WAS CLEARLY PRIMED FOR VISIT, CONCERNED OVER OUR DISTRESS AND, AS INDICATED, DECIDED UPON A COURSE OF ACTION. JAEGER, A BELGIAN NATIONAL, HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE WITH REFUGEES IN AFRICA, AS IN OTHER AREAS, NOTABLE THE FAR EAST. HIS JUDGEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE HEEDED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. ALTHOUGH HE HAS A TNEDENCY TO PONTIFICATE ON OCCASION, HE IS ON THE WHOLE A PLEASANT, KNOWLEDGABLE AND CONSCIENTIOUS OFFICIAL WITH WHOM THIS MISSION HAS HAD A CORDIAL
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AND PROFITABLE RELATIONSHIP.

5. IN A CONVERSATION SUBSEQUENT TO THIS MEETING. DEPUTY HICOM TOLD MISSOFF THAT, INSOFAR AS HE WAS AWARE, NOEL WAS STILL SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO KINSHASA AFTER HIS MEETING WITH SADRUDDIN LATER TODAY.CATTO

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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